

American Screw Company
Stevens St.
Providence
Providence County
Rhode Island

HAER No. RI-6

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4-PROV,
172-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

American Screw Company

HAER-RI-6

Location: Stevens St., Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island

Date of Construction Circa 1840, circa 1870

Significance: This site represents a 19th century industrial complex that, at the time of documentation, was little altered by 20th century development.

Transmitted by: Daniel Clement, 1983, with historical data drawn from the site's National Register of Historic Places nomination form prepared in 1970 and 1972.

This is a complex of factory buildings of brick, timber, and iron construction dating from circa 1840 to 1873. These factories were erected on land at the north end of Providence on land sloping upwards, from the Moshassuc River. The principal buildings are three of four stories in height, mostly rectangular in form, with gable roofs and protruding stair towers.

The first building, erected by the Eagle Screw Company, was a long three story rectangular structure with a clerestory gable roof that ran parallel to Stevens St. It had a protruding entrance and stair tower on the north side and a lesser stair tower on the west end. A gabled south wing was added soon after the original building was completed. Within ten years a second building was constructed 150 yards southeast of the original building. It was a four story gable roofed structure without clerestory. It also had a stair tower on its north side and a privy tower on its west end. It had a connecting 2 story gabled roofed boiler house to its south.

These buildings served until 1860 when the Eagle Screw Company merged with the American Screw Company. Between 1865 and 1870 the south wing of building 1 (the original factory) was extensively altered and a mansard roof added. North of this, a new 3 story triangular shaped mill (building 6 in photographs) was constructed, also with a mansard roof. Expansion again occurred in 1873 with the construction of the Bay State building, noted for its Lombard Italianate

style and its steeply pitched, hip roofed central tower. All these new buildings were believed to have been designed by Alpheus Morse a prominent Providence architect.

The buildings survived intact until a July 1971 fire swept through the complex leaving just charred shells. Today none of the buildings remain.